



NGC News

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[Read this article...](#)

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[Read this article...](#)

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[Read this article...](#)

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[Read this article...](#)

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[Read this article...](#)

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[Read this article...](#)

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[Read this article...](#)

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[Read this article...](#)

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design details, and its composition is virtually identical to that of a legitimate specimen.

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USA Coin Album: Coins of the 1950s - Part 3

This decade started with a bang, as far as nickels were concerned. These days, there is often a long delay in getting the Mint to release its monthly production figures — but in 1950, this information was published regularly in The Numismatist and its closest rival, The Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine.

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World Coins: Counterfeit Republic of China 1912 Sun Yat-Sen Silver Dollar

This counterfeit China 1912 Sun Yat-Sen Silver Dollar was made using a transfer die method.

[Read this article...](#)

From the NGC Archives: 1853-O Coronet Eagle

New Orleans was one of America's largest seaports before the Civil War, an important entry point for gold and silver bullion from around the world.

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Chinese Coins: 2014 Panda Coins Released Early

By Peter Anthony

The 2014 Chinese Panda coins were unveiled at the Beijing Coin Expo.

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Collectors Auction House

Collectors Auction House returns to the auction industry in Singapore.

[Read this article...](#)

How to Protect Your Coin Collection

Is your coin collection insured in the event of a loss?

[Read this article...](#)

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NGC Certifies Eric P. Newman World Coins

Posted on 10/28/2013

NGC has graded Part III of the Eric P. Newman Collection. The Newman world coin selections are remarkably diverse, with pieces from 92 countries representing more than 1,200 years of history.

SARASOTA, Fla (October 28, 2013)—Numismatic Guaranty Corporation® (NGC®) has graded and encapsulated more than 2,800 world coins selected from the phenomenal collection of Eric P. Newman. This third installment of the historic collection boasts a number of exceedingly rare and high grade coins from around the world.

Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society (EPNNEs) previously chose NGC to certify parts I and II of the collection, which included selections from his US two cent pieces through silver dollars, US commemoratives and US patterns coins. Part I shattered records when it was sold by Heritage Auctions on April 25, 2013, and the highly anticipated Newman Part II will be sold by Heritage Auctions on November 15 and 16, 2013, in New York.

The collection was carefully assembled and curated over a period of 90 years by noted numismatic writer and researcher Eric P. Newman, who at 102 years old continues to be active in his scholarly pursuits. Many numismatists consider the Eric P. Newman Collection to be the last of the vaunted old-time coin collections, ranking in importance alongside such highly regarded names as Eliasberg, Pittman and Garrett.

“Eric P. Newman’s collection has incredible depth and quality. These world coin selections, many of which have been off the market for more than half a century, are anchored by some of the most significant pieces ever to be sold publicly,” says Mark Salzberg, chairman of NGC. “We are very grateful that EPNNEs has continued to entrust NGC to certify this milestone collection.”

The Newman world coin selections are remarkably diverse with pieces from 92 countries representing more than 1,200 years of history. Dozens of coins in Newman Part III could be considered highlights, but several pieces stand out as world-class specimens due to their grade and rarity.

Among them is the Poland 1677 Andrzej Trzebicki Medallion Gold 10 Ducats graded NGC AU 58 and believed to be unique. In fact, prior to NGC's certification of this medal it was undocumented in any numismatic references or auction catalogs.



The selections include a number of German States coins, which are led by three fantastic rarities. The German States, Salzburg, 1612 Markus Sittikus Graf von Hohenems Gold 14 Ducats is virtually unknown to the collecting community and probably unique. Graded NGC AU 58, this specimen is undoubtedly one of the world's greatest numismatic treasures.

The German States, Saxe-Altenburg, 1672 Gold 10 Ducats of Duke Friedrich Wilhelm III is unlisted in Krause Publications' Standard Catalog of World Coins and has never been pictured in a numismatic reference. One of only two or three thought to exist, it is graded NGC AU 58.

A third German States coin, the 1674 Leopold I City of Emden 2 Taler, is notable for both its remarkably high grade and extreme rarity. NGC has assigned a grade of MS 66, which was previously unimaginable for this issue. Only a handful of examples are known to exist and nearly all are in circulated grades.



British coins are also extensively represented in the Newman selections. An English penny of Alfred the Great, struck between 871 and 899, is truly a miracle of survival with a grade of NGC MS 63—an astonishing grade for a medieval silver coin. The attractive NGC MS 62 England (1594-96) Gold Pound of Elizabeth I is significant as well.

An extremely rare Ecuador 1841 MV-A Gold 4 Escudos graded NGC MS 62 is certainly one of the greatest South American coins ever to be sold publicly. Once believed not to exist, it is now thought that only four examples survive.

Another spectacular gold piece from the Newman Collection is a Peru 1700L H Cob 4 Escudos of Carlos II. Graded MS 65 by NGC, this extraordinarily well preserved example is likely the finest of any extant Carlos II gold coins. Also graded NGC MS 65 is the Transylvania 1613NB Gabriel Bathori Gold Ducat. Seldom available in any grade, the Newman specimen is easily the finest of its type.

Additional highlights from Newman Part III are the Russia 1729 Peter II Gold Ducat in NGC AU 50, a rare variety of this issue; the NGC PF 64 Hong Kong 1866 Victoria Dollar, which is immensely popular with collectors; and the NGC MS 63 Sweden 1599 Karl IX Daler, a carefully preserved example of this rare, short-lived issue. The Italy Paolo III Gold 2 Fiorini di Camera, struck 1534-49, graded NGC MS 61 is notable as well.

Newman Part III will be sold by Heritage Auctions at its New York office January 14 to 16, 2014. The catalog, including images and descriptions, will be posted on the Heritage Auctions website (HA.com) later next month. Stuart Levine, a well-known dealer in Marblehead, Massachusetts, assisted EPNNES as a numismatic

advisor.

EPNNES Foundation Statement

Items being sold are from the extensive collection of Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society (a Missouri not-for-profit corporation) and have been assembled over a period of 90 years. Proceeds of the sale of all items will be used exclusively for supplementing the Society’s museum operations and scholarly numismatic research efforts and for the benefit of other not-for-profit institutions selected by Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society for public purposes.



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United States

NGC Expands Plus Designation to US Modern Coins

Posted on 11/13/2013

US Modern coins are now eligible for NGC's Plus (+) Designation, making the modern coin grading scale more nuanced.

SARASOTA, Fla. (November 12, 2013) — Numismatic Guaranty Corporation® (NGC®) has announced a significant expansion of its popular Plus (+) designation. NGC uses the Plus (+) designation to indicate a coin at the high end of its assigned numeric grade and approaching the quality requirements for the next grade. Now eligible for the Plus (+) designation are US coins dated 1792 to present and grading XF 45 to MS 68 or PF 45 to PF 68, excluding bullion issues and modern commemoratives struck 1982 to present.



With feedback from collectors and dealers, NGC determined that a more nuanced grading scale was needed for most US modern coin issues. The expansion of the Plus (+) designation was made as interest in US modern coins continues to grow.

“NGC’s Plus (+) designation has been praised by collectors and dealers as the premier indicator of quality since it was launched in May 2010,” says Mark Salzberg, chairman of NGC. “Although we initially limited the designation to vintage US coins, careful analysis over the last three years led us to believe that most modern US coin series required a similar level of precision.”

All eligible coins submitted to NGC for grading will automatically be evaluated for the Plus (+) designation. There is no additional fee or special service that must be requested. Coins may not be submitted under the Designation Review tier to be evaluated for the Plus (+) designation.

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United States

NGC Shanghai Educational Seminar and On-site Grading

Posted on 10/30/2013

NGC, NCS and PMG have opened a submission center in Shanghai and will be hosting a celebratory educational seminar and on-site grading.

NGC, NCS and PMG are pleased to announce the grand opening of a Shanghai, China, submission center. To celebrate the new location, NGC and NCS will host a free educational seminar on Friday, November 15. NGC will also be grading on-site at its Shanghai office November 10–15.

Educational Seminar

Friday, November 15, 14:00–17:00

Shanghai Marriott Hotel Luwan, Concord Room (Third Floor)
99 Jiangbin Road (end of Dapu Road)
Huangpu District, Shanghai, 200023

Distinguished speakers include:

David Camire, NGC Finalizer and NCS Conservation Expert

Jay Turner, NGC Finalizer

Peter Anthony, NGC Consultant and Chinese Panda Coin Expert

Rocky Zhao, Designer of the 2014 Chinese Panda Coin

Michael Chou, CEO of iAsure Champion Auction

King Lam Chan, Important Collector of Chinese Coins

NGC will also exhibit important NGC-certified coins, including three NGC-certified Inventions and Discoveries coins valued at more than US \$1 million each.

NGC Shanghai Grading Submissions

Guangzhou GB, the official China submission center for NGC, NCS and PMG, will

be accepting advance submissions for the NGC Shanghai on-site grading event. Regular submissions to NGC, NCS and PMG will also be accepted. For more information and submission instructions, contact Guangzhou GB.

Phone: 020-87319218 or 020-87319228

Email: GBNGC@126.com

Website: GBNGC.com

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United States

NGC Adds Variety Attribution Tutorial to Website

Posted on 11/14/2013

The variety attribution tutorial on NGC's website describes different classes of die varieties and how to distinguish them.

An illustrated guide to attributing varieties of United States coins has been added to the [VarietyPlus](#) webpage at www.NGCcoin.com. This is one of several useful articles found there which provide a greater understanding of what varieties are and how to distinguish them properly. The VarietyPlus webpage may be found under the “Research” header on the NGC homepage.

Prepared originally for the “Light from many Lamps” program at the American Numismatic Association’s Summer Seminar, this tutorial describes the different classes of die varieties and how to distinguish them from would-be varieties. It is illustrated with NGC-certified coins covering many types and series and is presented in an entertaining and easy to understand manner.

To link directly to this tutorial [click here](#)

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 United States 

NGC Offers Holiday Label

Posted on 11/12/2013

*NGC's Holiday Label is available to Collectors Society members. **Note: this label is no longer available.***

The holidays are right around the corner but it's not too late to make your numismatic gifts unique and memorable. Enhance your coin gifts by dressing them up with NGC's distinctive Holiday label. Featuring a beautiful winter scene with snow covered decorated trees this label will conjure holiday memories for years to come. All Modern US and world coins are eligible for this label under the Modern Special tier.



Submission Instructions:

- Select the Modern Special tier. Eligible coins: All US coins 1955 to present and regular issue world coins 1970 to present. Maximum value \$2,500.
- The 5-coin minimum applies to the Modern Special tier.
- ReHolders must be submitted under the Special Label ReHolder service tier.
- **Coins for the Holiday Label MUST be on their own submission invoice. The coins cannot be mixed with other coins to qualify for this label.**
- Write "Holiday label" on the submission form.

Offer available while quantities of the Holiday label last.

NGC will accept submissions at trade shows, but they are not eligible for on-site grading.

Dealers should contact [Scott Heller](#) at NGC for bulk submissions.

Questions? Contact NGC Customer Service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (1-800-642-2646).

Collectors Society paid members can submit their coins directly to NGC. Not an NGC Collectors Society member? Paid memberships start at just \$39/year. Join as a Premium member, or upgrade to Premium membership, and you'll receive a coupon to have five coins graded for free. [Join today](#).

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United States

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Numismatist Profile: John L. Schuch II

Posted on 11/6/2013

The NGC grader was recently profiled in the ANA's The Numismatist.

Life's tough lessons lead a rebellious teen back to numismatics.

AT AGE 20, JOHN SCHUCH II found himself out of his parents' house and their good graces. With nowhere to go, Schuch hooked up with Uncle Sam. His know-it-all attitude took a direct hit. "It didn't take long in Army basic training to realize just how little I knew," says Schuch. "Not just how young and dumb I was, and how badly I behaved toward my parents, but how much I was throwing away what I had learned in my father's coin business."

Now a 35-year-old professional coin grader, husband and father of three boys, Schuch looks back on his early years in numismatics with fondness. When he was 12, he often would help his dad at coin shows. At the time, Schuch was more interested in baseball cards than numismatics. "Card shows often used to set up with coin shows," he says. "And making money off my favorite baseball heroes was much more exciting than coins." That, too, would change.

His first, big out-of-state coin show was the ANA's anniversary convention in Baltimore in 1993. He was 15. John Schuch Sr. told his son, "Keep your eyes on those coins at all times! Don't let them out of your sight for any reason." As the younger Schuch was following the bellman through the hotel doors, a huge man snatched him up and yelled, "I've got the kid, grab the coins! Grab the coins!"

Schuch was terrified until he heard a roar of



laughter coming from the man,
a long-time friend of his father.

"Michael 'Killer' Kelly overheard my dad repeating the importance of not letting the coins out of my sight and thought it would be a great joke to play on me. That was my introduction to the numismatic show circuit."

Following his stint in the Army, Schuch went home to California and started working for his father once more. This time, he was full of passion and eager to learn. Along with his dad, many people in the industry taught Schuch how to buy, sell and eventually grade coins. Grading became his passion, and one day he asked a friend if there was a chance he could get an interview with Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC). "My friend told me to call Mark Salzberg," recalls Schuch. "I was a little taken back...I was supposed to call the owner of the company for an interview?"

That was nine years ago, and today Schuch couldn't be happier. "I have been able to handle and grade some of the world's most amazing coins," he says. "The collections that come through NGC's doors are such a prodigious part of history." No longer is he under pressure to buy and sell numismatic items—he simply gets to enjoy them.

Schuch now shares that joy with the next generation—his three sons, Brodie (10), Zayne (5) and Sawyer (3). Each has his own coin collection, though Zayne shows a particular interest in the hobby. "At the end of each work day, I try to disconnect from NGC and become a husband and a daddy," says Schuch.

The ANA's annual Summer Seminar has played a large role in developing his abilities. "Without the Seminar, I wouldn't be here at NGC," Schuch says. "I took the advanced grading class at least twice. Not only did it provide me with knowledge, but it helped me build relationships with others in the field." Now, Schuch leads his own grading class during the Seminar. He believes that the students, regardless of age, forge friendships that help them not only professionally, but also personally.

Numismatics has made the life John Schuch lives possible. "I was rebellious as a kid," he says. "I barely graduated high school, not because I wasn't capable, but because I didn't care. I wouldn't have family I love, and the job I'm passionate about, if it weren't for this great hobby."

—Robert B. Kelley

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United States

NGC Registry News

Posted on 11/12/2013

The countdown is on! Excitement is building for our annual NGC Registry Awards.

Do you need to make any last-minute changes to your coins or add new images? You have until December 2, 2013 at 5 p.m. to make changes.



The NGC Registry is a free online resource that allows you to display your coins, interact with other collectors and compete for recognition and prizes. Collectors can now participate in more than 3,500 set categories for coins from around the world.

We have been busy adding new set categories to the [NGC Registry](#), Check out some of the latest releases, below:

- Bahamas: 1974 Proof Set
- British Virgin Islands: 1974 Proof Set
- Canada - Commemorative: Silver \$20, American Bald Eagle Series, 2013-Date, Proof
- Canada - Commemorative: Silver \$20, Birth of the Royal Infant, 2013, Proof
- Canada - Commemorative: Silver \$20, Canadian Maple Tree Series, 2013-Date, Proof
- China - Commemorative: Endangered Wildlife, 1986, Proof
- China - Commemorative: 1995-1997 Unicorn Platinum Set, Proof
- China - Commemorative: 13th World Cup Soccer Set, 1986, Proof
- China - Commemorative: 14th World Cup Soccer Set, 1989-1990, Proof
- Israel: Silver 1/2 Sheqel, 1982-1985, Mint State
- Israel: Silver 1/2 New Sheqel, 1986-1990, Mint State
- Israel: Silver Sheqel, 1980-1985, Complete
- Israel: Silver New Sheqel, 1986-1990, Complete
- Italy: Silver 5 Euros, 2003-Date, Proof
- Mexico: Charles IV, 1/4 Real, 1796-1816, Circulation Issue

- Niue: Silver \$2, Birds of Niue, 2009-Date, Colorized, Proof
- Spain: Silver 50 Euros, 2002-Date, Proof
- Tuvalu: Silver Dollars, 2014, Proof
- US: Dollars: San Francisco Morgan Dollars, 1878-1921, Circulation Issue
- US: Dollars: Philadelphia Morgan Dollars, 1878-1921, Circulation Issue

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NGC Accepting Submissions in Houston

Posted on 11/12/2013

Stop by the NGC table at the Money Show of the Southwest to drop off your regular grading submissions.

NGC will be accepting regular submissions for all service levels* at the [Houston Money Show](#), at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas on Thursday, December 5 and Friday, December 6, 2013. NGC Booth #714. All submissions will be sent to our office in Sarasota, FL. Services include World Services, Ancient Coin Services, Bulk, PHOTO PROOF® and more. Check with show representatives for details. Cut-off time for all submissions will be 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 6. NGC will not be at the show on Saturday.



Note:

- Due to the special handling required, NGC does not accept submissions of the following coins at this show for regular service submissions to be returned to the NGC offices: Coins over 3.5" (90 mm) in diameter and .39" (10 mm) in depth, 2013 American Buffalo One Ounce Gold Reverse Proof, West Point 2-coin set, San Francisco 2-coin Proof set, Coin & Currency sets, 25th Anniversary Eagles, 20th Anniversary Eagles, Early Releases, American Liberty Series and 10th Anniversary Platinum Sets. These submissions must be sent directly to Sarasota, FL, by the submitter.
- *Does not include 5-ounce coins.

Questions should be directed to NGC customer service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (642-2646).

Visit our table for answers to any questions about the services offered by NGC.

Please remember that NGC does not provide opinions or free evaluations of coins at trade shows.

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United States

NGC Ancients: A Survey of Roman Gold - Part 2

Posted on 11/12/2013

This month, NGC Ancients continues to examine the evolution of Roman gold through the centuries.

At the beginning of the fourth century AD, the Roman Empire found itself in a prolonged economic decline. Centuries of warfare and misrule had slowly eroded all aspects of Roman life. Unsurprisingly, this was reflected in the coinage of the era. The gold aureus, a staple of Roman commerce for the better part of four centuries, had been reduced to an almost unrecognizable state and was in dire need of an overhaul.

To this end, the solidus was introduced c.A.D. 310 in the Western part of the empire by Constantine I 'the Great' (A.D. 307-337). The new gold standard of the empire, the solidus was struck at the lighter weight of 72 per pound (about 4.5 grams) on a comparatively broad and thin planchet. This impressive solidus of Constantine I, struck at Antioch in about A.D. 324, features a portrait of Constantine I on the obverse and the figure of the emperor on horseback on the reverse.



The solidus remained the standard gold coin for the rest of the Roman Empire

and filled the same role for most of Byzantine history. Its only period of weakness during the Roman Empire was c.A.D. 346 to 368, when its fineness dropped from the usual 99%+ to slightly less than 95%. When it was restored to the traditional purity in A.D. 368, some mint signatures began to include the letters OB, abbreviating obryzum, meaning 'pure gold'. This solidus of Gratian (A.D. 367-383) was minted at Sirmium c. A.D. 379-380, and displays just such an inscription in the exergue on the reverse, after "SIR" (used to indicate Sirmium as the mint). The coin features a portrait of this emperor on the obverse and an ornate scene of the seated figures of the co-emperors (and half-brothers) Gratian and Valentinian II on the reverse.



On some occasions the weight of a Roman gold coin was indicated with a supplemental inscription. For example, during the Tetrarchy (c.A.D. 284-313) the Greek letters Xi and Omicron occasionally appear in the reverse fields, indicating coins that were struck, respectively, at 60 and 70 to the pound. Some Constantinian solidi bear the Latin inscription LXXII, a clear indication that they were struck at 72 to the pound. This solidus of Constantine I is an example of this practice, as the LXXII on the reverse indicates the weight standard. Minted at Antioch c. A.D. 335-336, it features the portrait of Constantine I on the obverse and Victory holding a palm frond and trophy on the reverse.



Two less common gold coins of the late empire were the semissis and the 1 ½

scripulum, both introduced by Constantine the Great. The first was (as its name suggests) half of a solidus, and the second was an odd denomination of about 1.7 grams which is sometimes called a nine-siliqua. Neither of these coins played a significant role in the Roman economy, though the semissis was struck in very large quantities as a Byzantine coin starting in the 6th Century A.D. This semissis of Valentinian III (A.D. 425-455), struck at Constantinople early in his reign, displays the emperor's bust on the obverse and Victory inscribing a shield on the reverse.



Far more important was the tremissis, a one-third solidus that weighed about 1.5 grams. It was introduced c.A.D. 383, but was not widely used until about A.D. 430. It became a great success, especially since the denomination was popular with Germanic peoples. This tremissis in the name of the Roman emperor Julius Nepos (A.D. 474-475) was actually struck by the Visigoths in imitation of a legitimate Roman issue. The style is slightly crude, but still recognizable.



By contrast, this imitative tremissis, struck by the Merovingians c.A.D. 561-613, is so devolved as to be almost unrecognizable.



In the name of Justin II (A.D. 565-578), it features a distorted portrait on the obverse and a highly stylized Victory on the reverse.

In addition to these fractional coins, multiples – considered medallions – were also struck. The smallest was the 1¼th solidus, essentially a revived aureus, which today is called a ‘festaureus’ because it is thought to have been a ceremonial coin.

As the Roman Empire gave way to the Byzantine Empire, this system of gold coinage would continue into the 9th century, when dramatic changes would be made once again as the empire attempted to right itself in the face of near-collapse.

Images courtesy of Classical Numismatic Group

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Counterfeit Detection: 1904 Double Eagle

Posted on 11/12/2013

This counterfeit 1904 Double Eagle specimen exhibits relatively sharp design details, and its composition is virtually identical to that of a legitimate specimen.

United States gold coins have been extensively counterfeited for decades and fakes are known for virtually all dates, even the most common ones. Many of these spurious gold pieces were not originally intended to fool collectors; rather, they were created to satisfy the intense demand for gold coins from Middle Eastern merchants in the 1960s and 1970s. These counterfeits typically had a high gold content and many were imported to the United States where they were eventually purchased by unsuspecting collectors.

When old time collections are sold, these fakes will often reenter the marketplace. One of these older counterfeits, a 1904 Double Eagle, was submitted to NGC for authentication. It is not difficult to see why this fake and others like can fool buyers. As with many US gold coin counterfeits of the 1960s and 1970s, this specimen exhibits relatively sharp design details and its composition is virtually identical to that of a legitimate specimen.



Counterfeit 1904 Double Eagle

Click images to enlarge.

Nonetheless, there are several problems that help identify it as a counterfeit. The fields, particularly in the periphery, appear altered and dull. There are also a number of raised lines and tiny lumps near the denticles and through the letters in the legends. For example, a raised line bisects the Y in TWENTY on the reverse and a small lump is seen immediately to the left of the D in DOLLARS. More minuscule lumps can be found in Liberty's coronet between the letters of LIBERTY.



Click image to enlarge.

These counterfeit US gold coins have been commonplace for several decades although their numbers began to dwindle in the late 1980s with establishment of third-party grading services. For collectors unfamiliar with these older fakes, they can sometimes be quite deceptive. There are many diagnostics, however, especially the raised lines and lumps, that are common to a lot of these illegitimate pieces and familiarity with these issues will make detection significantly easier.

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USA Coin Album: Coins of the 1950s - Part 3

Posted on 11/12/2013

This decade started with a bang, as far as nickels were concerned. These days, there is often a long delay in getting the Mint to release its monthly production figures — but in 1950, this information was published regularly in The Numismatist and its closest rival, The Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine.

Readers following this data noted with interest the absence of five-cent coinage at the Denver and San Francisco Mints, and this went on month after month. Ultimately there would be no 1950-S nickels at all, and it was not until August that Denver reported a small production, just \$131,501.50 worth. Coin collectors watched closely for this figure to be supplemented during the remaining months of the year. When 1950 became history, with no additional production of nickels at the Denver Mint, it finally sank in that the figure of 2,630,030 1950-D nickels was final. This was the smallest mintage of nickels since 1931 and thus the smallest number for the entire Jefferson series.



The rush was on! The saving of Mint State rolls was already well established by 1950 and had become an annual ritual for thousands of collectors and speculators, but news of such a low-mintage current coin put this practice into overdrive. As a result, very few 1950-D nickels ever made it into circulation. Most remain as fresh and bright as they looked in 1950, and this issue became the speculative darling of the coin business over the next 14 years. Its value peaked at the height of the roll market in 1964, with individual coins selling for about \$25. Adjusting for inflation, that's more than \$200 today. A lot of folks got burned buying them at that time, as the 2014 Red Book shows this coin having a value of just \$14 in MS-60 grade.

Of course, a lot of other date/mint combinations exist for nickels of the 1950s, but none of these are rare in Mint State. Even gems, coins grading MS-65 or higher, are plentiful for all issues. Where Jefferson nickels become a challenge is in finding them fully struck from unworn dies. The most specific point of evaluation is the staircase leading up to Monticello. The fine, horizontal lines which represent these six steps are at the highest point of relief on the reverse of the Jefferson nickel and are thus also the deepest portion of the die cavity. This makes them among the last portions of that cavity to fill with metal at the moment of striking, and it is very rare to find examples from the 1950s on which all six steps are complete from left to right.

As noted in the first installment of this series, all United States coins made during the 1950s were coined on strict budgets that led to overuse of the dies. Most nickels from this decade are poorly struck and may show erosion lines of varying depth and severity. Under these circumstances the likelihood of any Jefferson nickel displaying all details, including the steps of Monticello, is pretty slim. Collectors who specialize in this coin series seek to obtain only examples having full steps, and the rarity of individual date/mint combinations showing full steps varies considerably.

One general observation is that the four San Francisco Mint issues of 1951-54 are rare fully struck, as this mint was perhaps the biggest offender when it came to overuse of its dies. The Philadelphia and Denver Mints weren't much better. Ironically, Denver entered this decade with higher production quality than Philadelphia, only to fall behind it and start producing worse coins by 1960. The respective rarities of each Jefferson nickel with full steps are beyond the scope of this study, but collectors should be aware of the distinctions made by the two major grading services. NGC uses either 5FS or 6FS on its labels to denote nickels having those respective numbers of complete steps, while PCGS labels Jefferson nickels solely with an FS designation for coins having at least five complete steps.

Another issue with nickels of the 1950s is planchet quality. The mint had years earlier stopped making its own planchets for cents and nickels, instead buying these ready to coin from commercial suppliers. The quality of planchets received from such vendors varied from year to year, and certain dates of nickels are frequently found with a very dark color as made. I've seen dark examples dated 1955(P), 1957-D, 1958-D and 1959(P), though there are probably others; I'm not a specialist in this series. Fortunately, there are enough Mint State survivors of all these issues that collectors may simply step around these dark and ugly examples to find more desirable ones. They are just historic oddities that provide

some drama to a relatively common series of coins.

A number of interesting die-punching varieties have been found for nickels from the 1950s, and these add a further dimension to collecting Jeffersons. The best known varieties are the overmintmark issues of 1954-S/D and 1955-D/S. There are actually several reverse dies for 1955-D showing some degree of overpunching, but only the one illustrated in the Red Book carries a substantial premium. Also desirable is a variety of 1954-S showing a boldly double-punched S. Various doubled-die varieties exist for nickels from the 1950s, and readers are referred to *The Cherrypickers’ Guide to Rare Die Varieties, Volume I* for illustrations and descriptions. If you want to learn even more about Jefferson doubled-dies, get a copy of the book by John Wexler and Brian Ribar titled *The Best of the Jefferson Nickel Doubled Die Varieties*.

David W. Lange's column, “USA Coin Album,” appears monthly in the Numismatist, the official publication of the [American Numismatic Association](#).

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World Coins: Counterfeit

Republic of China 1912 Sun Yat-Sen Silver Dollar

Posted on 11/25/2013

This counterfeit China 1912 Sun Yat-Sen Silver Dollar was made using a transfer die method.

High quality counterfeit Chinese coins continue to flow into the market and NGC recently received one fake that is extremely deceptive. Counterfeits have been made since coins were invented. The Republic of China 1912 Sun Yat-Sen L&M-42 Silver Dollar has always been a desirable coin, with high grade examples recently selling in excess of \$10,000. Counterfeits of this type have been around for years; however, this particular high quality fake is a piece is new to the market.



China 1912 Sun Yat-Sen Silver Dollar
Left: Coin 1 Obverse; Right: Coin 2 Obverse
Click images to enlarge.



China 1912 Sun Yat-Sen Silver Dollar
Left: Coin 1 Reverse; Right: Coin 2 Reverse
Click images to enlarge.

Counterfeit coins can be made using a transfer die method where a host coin is used to make dies to produce the counterfeits. With transfer dies it is very likely that the design will be correct if transferred properly, which poses a significant danger for collectors and dealers. Counterfeiters have recently become very good at making high quality transfer dies that can produce high quality counterfeits. One of the diagnostic features of transfer dies is that marks, abrasions and other identifiers that are on the host coin are often, but not always, copied to the counterfeit dies and then copied onto any counterfeits produced by those dies. The numismatic term for this effect is “a repeating depression” since the defect will repeat on each counterfeit coin.

This counterfeit Chinese 1912 Sun Yat-Sen Silver Dollar attributed as L&M-42 was produced by the transfer die method. The glaring problem with this counterfeit is that a major repeating depression was picked up by the transfer dies. This depression appears to be a large scratch on the reverse under the second center character. Other depressions on the counterfeits include hits on the obverse behind Sun Yat-Sen’s head, in his hair and two large marks in the field in front of the face. On the reverse next to the scratch under the second character there are depressions next to the E of ONE, and next to the wreath stocks. Aside from these depressions the coins are the correct size, design, silver and the luster is very close to correct.



China 1912 Sun Yat-Sen Silver Dollar
Diagnostics Circled in Red
Click images to enlarge.

Deceptive counterfeits are nothing new to numismatics. A third-party certification service with a comprehensive guarantee of grade and authenticity can also add peace of mind when collecting.

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United States

From the NGC Archives: 1853-O Coronet Eagle

Posted on 11/12/2013

New Orleans was one of America's largest seaports before the Civil War, an important entry point for gold and silver bullion from around the world.

The New Orleans Mint produced a total of just 51,000 ten-dollar pieces for 1853, a figure which was destined to make this a scarce issue in all grades.



Evidently, no Mint State examples of the 1853-O Eagle have survived. This attractive specimen is thus one of the better pieces available. It also features distinct repunching of numerals 853, though it doesn't exactly match any of the varieties listed in Walter Breens monograph on this series. Well struck for an O Mint gold piece, this fine coin from the famed John J. Pittman Collection retains much of its luster within the protected areas. Its surfaces are also free of any significant marks, adding to its appeal.

Are you interested in learning more about these coins? Click [here](#) to visit the NGC Coin Explorer and read on.

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United States

Chinese Coins: 2014 Panda Coins Released Early

Posted by Peter Anthony on 11/12/2013

The 2014 Chinese Panda coins were unveiled at the Beijing Coin Expo.

Since 1982, as year-end approaches it has become an annual ritual for coin collectors to anticipate the release of the next Panda coins. Unlike other series of modern “bullion” coins, the Panda is redesigned each year. This has created a unique buzz around the coins. For instance in 2012 there were two Pandas in the design, in 2013 there were three and some collectors speculated that the 2014 installment might feature a quartet of bears.

At the October Beijing International Coin Expo that speculation was laid to rest. The entire range of new Panda coins from 1/20 oz. through kilos were on display and they feature a solo bruin. That the coins were on display at all was newsworthy. Past Expos focused attention on the Lunar coin series. Panda coins were usually released a month or two later with less fanfare. This year, however, the Chinese Mint turned the Expo into a coming out party for the 2014 Pandas. The coins could be seen at the China Gold Coin Incorporation display area in a showcase right next to the 2014 Year of the Horse Lunar coins.



China 2014 Panda Silver 10 Yuan
Click images to enlarge.

Moreover Panda collectors received not only a preview of the new coins, but a status upgrade from the China Mint. The Mint hosted a spectacular event to formally introduce the 2014 Pandas. It featured speeches by Mr. Zhang Hanqiao, the President of China Gold Coin Incorporation and by Mr. Li Bo, the Chairman of Shanghai Gold Coin Investment Co., Ltd. His company is a branch of China Gold Coin Incorporation that specializes in the distribution of bullion Pandas. They spoke about the significance of the Panda as a symbol of peace and friendship between China and the rest of the world as well as about the history and future of the coin series.

An impressive video explained the design and minting process. The crowd was then electrified by the appearance of a floating holographic likeness of a 2014 gold Panda spinning in mid-air. Next a complete master set of every gold BU Panda issued from 1982 to 2013 was laid out on a long table. At the far end two five-coin sets of 2014 gold Pandas were placed on velvet-lined trays. Guests were invited to examine and pick up the coins. I heard several people comment that 2014 is the best design in some years, something that must have pleased Mr. Rocky Zhao, the coin's designer, who was present.

The event not only provided the numismatic community with a first-look at the 2014 coins but also signaled the high regard that China Mint places on the Panda series.

For those who are interested in learning more about Pandas, Lunars and other modern Chinese coins NGC will host an Educational Seminar in Shanghai on

Friday, November 15, from 14:00–17:00 at the Shanghai Marriott Hotel Luwan, Concord Room (Third Floor). This will be an opportunity to attend presentations and discuss Pandas, grading, conservation and other topics. It will be a special day and I hope to see many of you there.

Peter Anthony is an expert on Chinese modern coins with a particular focus on Panda coins. He is an analyst for the [NGC Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide](#) as well as a consultant on Chinese modern coins.

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United States

Collectors Auction House

Posted on 11/12/2013

Collectors Auction House returns to the auction industry in Singapore.

B. H. Lim in Singapore is returning to the auction industry.

Since the last auction in 2000, "I organized an auction in July 2012 in the name of Collectors Auction House. This is the only auction house in Singapore that deals solely on the digital platform, hoping to keep costs low for both buyers and sellers," stated Mr. Lim.



For items more than \$500 hammer price, there is absolutely no seller's commission, hoping to attract more high value items.

The next auction will be held at the end of March 2014, in conjunction with the Singapore Coin Fair 2014. "Do show your support by consignment or participating in our next auction. I hope to hear from you soon."

Collectors Auction House

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This is a guest article. The thoughts and opinions in this piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.

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How to Protect Your Coin Collection

Posted on 11/12/2013

Is your coin collection insured in the event of a loss?

Thieves have targeted coins for centuries, and rising gold and silver prices have only strengthened that connection. Coin collectors, consequently, must take extra precautions to protect their collections. But thieves aren't the only threats to your shiny coins. A house fire, for example, could destroy a collection.

Think your collection is covered under your home insurance policy? Not so fast. Your collection may be partly covered by your homeowners policy's contents coverage. That's what helps replace the possessions inside your house in case of a covered claim. However, the coverage limits for currency or collectibles can be as low as \$200.

That leaves serious coin collectors with two major options: scheduling an endorsement to their existing home insurance policy to increase the coverage limit for their coins or purchasing a separate policy – called a personal articles floater. Each has its advantages:

Adding an endorsement to an existing homeowners policy usually costs less and consolidates your coverage. You pay one provider and you file claims with one provider.

A personal article floater is generally sold by a company that specializes in a specific type of coverage. Usually these policies include all-perils coverage as well as protection for your collection outside the house (if you are taking it to a show, for example).

Insuring your collection is low cost and you typically won't even have to pay a deductible. Like home and auto insurance, it might benefit you to shop around

first. Research customer reviews, coverage options, and compare quotes so you can be sure you are getting the best policy available to you.

Know what you have

Regardless of which option you choose, it's a good idea to have your collection professionally appraised. It's helpful to know the full value of your collection and your insurance provider may require documentation when it comes time to insure the collection.

Some other steps to take:

- Take inventory of your collection and make a detailed record of each coin. You should record the value of the coin and may want to even include pictures. This will not only help you keep track of the items in your collection, but it will make filing claims a smoother process.
- Always refer back to your policy. From acquiring new coins to your collection to appreciating in value, you may need to adjust your coverage limit to make sure it's fully protected.
- Consider storing your coins in a safe or a place that isn't easy for thieves to get into. Fireproof safes can be a great option.
- Bolster your home security. Installing a home security system is a good idea no matter what you collect. Home security systems are a sure deterrent to intruders and installing one in your home can qualify you for discounts of up to 20% on your home insurance policy. Even deadbolt locks add a level of security, and they can mean discounts of up to 5%.

Every coin has a story, so make sure your coin collection tells a happy story. Keep it safe from anything man and nature can throw at it.

This article was contributed by Samantha Alexander and Carrie Van Brunt-Wiley, contributors to the [HomeownersInsurance.com](https://www.homeownersinsurance.com) blog. The [HomeownersInsurance.com](https://www.homeownersinsurance.com) blog serves as a resource center for insurance consumers and homebuyers across the country.

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